

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A bioreactor culture system for producing conifer somatic embryos, comprising:
 - 5 a closed vessel;
 - a biomass immobilization matrix positioned in the closed vessel;
 - a liquid culture medium contained in the closed vessel, the level of liquid culture medium being lower than the immobilization
 - 10 matrix; and
 - a liquid culture medium spraying equipment for spraying liquid culture medium onto the biomass immobilization matrix to thereby irrigate said immobilized biomass.
- 15 2. The system of claim 1, further comprising a gas control equipment for controlling the concentration of oxygen in the gas phase of the closed vessel.
3. A bioreactor culture process for producing conifer somatic embryos, comprising the steps of:
 - 20 installing a biomass immobilization matrix in a closed vessel;
 - sterilizing the biomass immobilization matrix and the closed vessel;
 - 25 introducing a liquid culture medium in the closed vessel to immerse the biomass immobilization matrix;

adding a given volume of cultured cells in the liquid culture medium;

immobilizing the cultured cells onto the biomass immobilization matrix;

- 5 reducing the level of liquid culture medium in the closed vessel to a level lower than the biomass immobilization matrix; and
 spraying liquid culture medium onto the biomass immobilization matrix to thereby irrigate said immobilized biomass.

- 10 4. The process of claim 3, further comprising the step of controlling the concentration of oxygen in the gas phase of the closed vessel.

- 15 5. The process of claim 3, wherein said bioreactor culture process is a process for producing somatic embryos of most conifer species.